

REMARKS

1. The Examiner, in a telephone conference on January 13, 2004 proposed that the Claims 1 – 6 would be deemed allowable if the applicant amended the preamble of Claim 1 to read as follows:

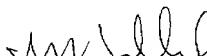
A method for building a staple blank refill, the method comprising the steps of:

In addition, in Claims 1,2 , 5 and 6 the occurrences of the phrase "consumable parts" or "parts" at line 5 of Claim 1 were to be amended to read "staple wires" .

Finally Claims 7 – 18, previously withdrawn were to be cancelled in the present application.

Applicant has amended the Claims accordingly. No new matter is added.

2. Applicant believes the application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests the same. If the Examiner is of a differing opinion he/she is hereby requested to conduct a telephonic interview with the undersigned attorney.



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